



COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL Agenda Highlights for February 9, 2009

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EXPANDING RICKENBACKER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT: Development Committee Chair [Andrew J. Ginther](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 1787-2008* to enter into a Joint Economic Development District (JEDD) contract and annexation moratorium agreement with the Village of Ashville and Madison Township in Pickaway County. This JEDD will continue to provide for long-term, shared economic development within southeastern Franklin County and the Madison Township area. The JEDD also will facilitate and further promote development projects and activities which currently are pending or proposed within and adjacent to the Rickenbacker Port Authority. Joint Economic Development Districts are intended to help create or preserve jobs and employment opportunities, while improving the economic welfare of the citizens within the jurisdictions of the JEDD participants.

HELPING THE ARTS THRIVE IN FIVE: Local arts organizations are working together to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of Columbus cultural groups with the *Thrive In Five* campaign. In 2006, the city's 16 anchor arts and culture institutions formed the Columbus Cultural Leadership Consortium (CCLC). The group has leveraged public and private dollars, allocating money to member organizations. *Ordinance 0135-2009*, sponsored by Councilmember [Priscilla R. Tyson](#), will amend a contract between the city of Columbus and CCLC to allow the group to continue raising matching funds through the end of 2009.

COUNCIL SUPPORTING EFFICIENT MASS TRANSIT: Public Serve & Transportation Committee Chair [Hearcel F. Craig](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 1883-2008* to amend the Columbus City Code to allow the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) to operate articulated buses within Columbus. COTA has begun increasing service by approximately 10% per year to meet regional transit service needs. COTA's current Short Range Transit Plan includes increasing service frequency on local routes, operating service longer in the day, and extending service into currently unserved areas. Overcrowding on main local routes has required that most service expansion focus upon providing relief to these routes, which limited COTA's ability to expand service to new areas. The acquisition of articulated buses will provide relief to overcrowded buses and facilitate assignment of other buses to service expansion. The Transportation & Pedestrian Commission previously voted to recommend adoption of the ordinance.

PALEY PROTECTING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: Judiciary & Court Administration Committee Chair [Eileen Y. Paley](#) is sponsoring legislation to help witnesses and victims of domestic violence through legal assistance, counseling, referrals, and connection to other agencies and community resources. *Ordinance 0142-2009* allocates a \$103,705 grant to partially fund two prosecuting attorneys in the Domestic Violence Unit of City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer's office. The grant will be further matched with a \$34,569 commitment from the city.

PROVIDING COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE SERVICES: Since 1974, the Columbus Health Department has provided primary health care services to the needy through contracts with community-based health centers. Health, Housing & Human Services Committee Chair [Charleta B. Tavares](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 0060-2009* to contract with Columbus Neighborhood Health Center, Inc. (CNHC) in the amount of \$4,379,260 to continue providing critical health care services at community-based health centers. Since 1998, the Columbus Health Department has contracted with the CNHC Inc. to provide services to medically indigent patients at numerous neighborhood health centers.

CONTINUING INSURANCE BENEFITS: Employees in the bargaining units and the Management Compensation Plan (MCP) who have experienced layoffs in 2009 will have their benefits extended. Administration Committee Chair [A. Troy Miller](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 0149-2009* to provide the continuation of insurance benefits, excluding life and short-term disability, for a period of thirty days from the date of the insurance termination. This legislation further authorizes the expenses associated with the extensions of insurance coverage be charged to the unallocated balance of the Insurance Trust Fund.

CITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS: City Council President [Michael C. Mentel](#) will bring forth four appropriation ordinances for consideration this evening. *Ordinance 1818-2008* appropriates \$630.5 million into the General Fund for all anticipated 2009 operating expenses. This amount is \$23.3 million less than last year's General Fund budget and represents \$13 million less than the Mayor's initial proposal submitted on November 14, 2008. The other ordinances, *1844-2008*, *1849-2008*, and *1850-2008*, establish appropriations for various other funds including the employee benefits fund, technology fund, fleet management fund, bond note retirement funds, the water system revenue bond reserve fund, and TIF debt service funds.